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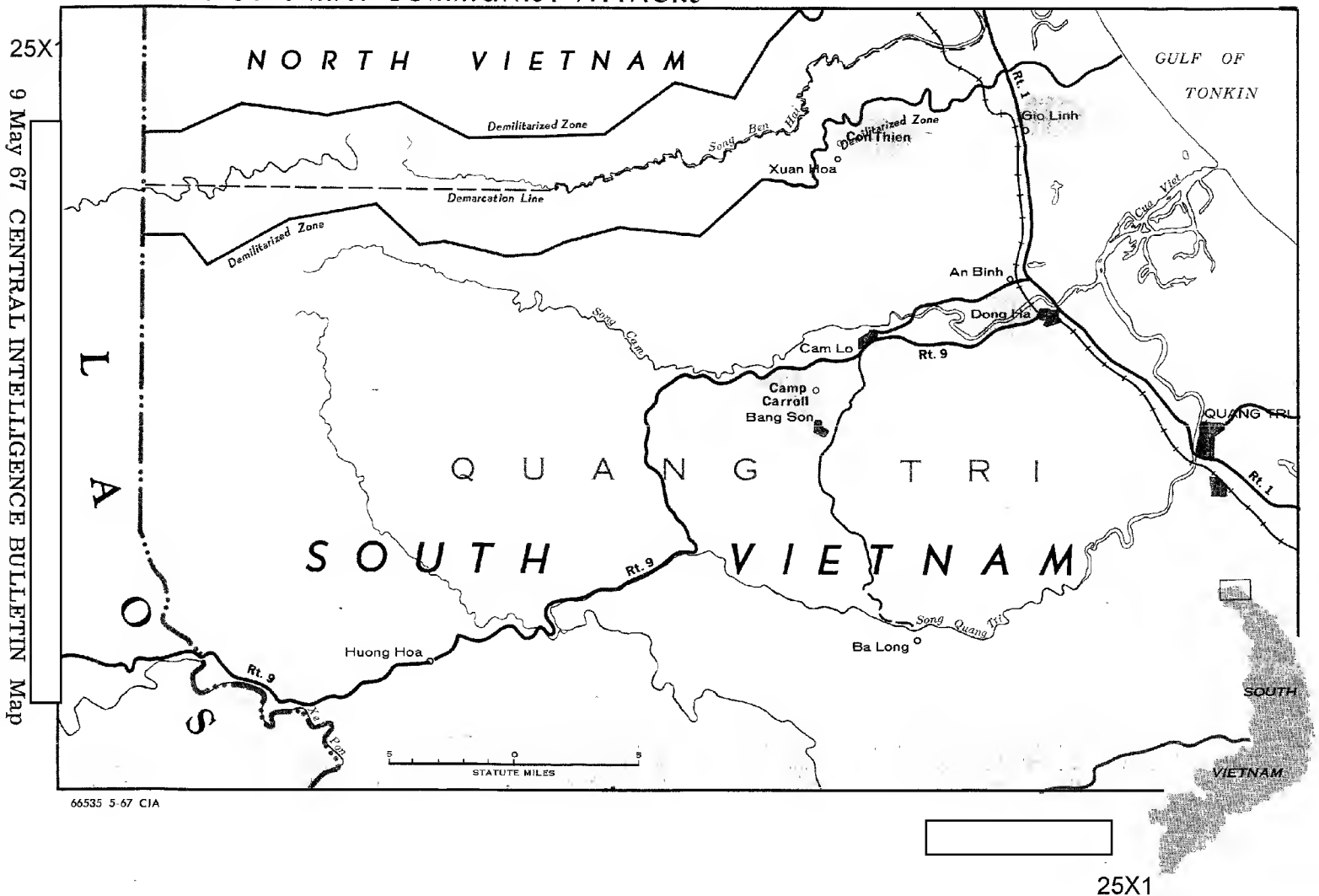
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TARGETS OF 8 MAY COMMUNIST ATTACKS



*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces on 8 May launched four well-coordinated attacks against allied positions just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in northeastern Quang Tri Province. In addition to a ground assault against Con Thien, the enemy simultaneously struck three other allied positions with heavy artillery, mortar, and rocket fire.

An estimated two NVA battalions attacked Con Thien, the US/ARVN outpost at the western terminus of the infiltration barrier presently under construction across the coastal lowlands of Quang Tri Province. The assault began with about 250 rounds of mortar fire, followed by a ground attack that resulted in heavy casualties to both sides. Initial reports place allied losses at 58 killed and 126 wounded, in contrast to Communist losses of nearly 200 killed. At last report, light, sporadic contact with the enemy was continuing.

Elsewhere, at least 20 US Marines were wounded when Communist forces shelled 175-mm. artillery sites at Camp Carroll and Gio Linh; the Marine forward operating base at Dong Ha also was hit. Preliminary reports indicate that 102-mm. spin-stabilized rockets were used in the attack on Camp Carroll, 105-mm. artillery was employed against Gio Linh, and 140-mm. barrage rockets against Dong Ha. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: As anticipated, the South Vietnamese minister of defense, General Cao Van Vien, announced on 8 May that the armed forces would not officially endorse a military candidate for the presidency.

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For the present, the decision should lessen the likelihood of a split in the military establishment, since it relieves the senior generals of the necessity of formally committing their support to the prospective candidacies of either Premier Ky or Chief of State Thieu. On the other hand, the decision not to formally involve senior ARVN officers in the Ky-Thieu rivalry raises the possibility that both men will run for the presidency if they fail to come to terms privately.

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EEC: EEC Commission President Hallstein's withdrawal of his candidacy to head a new executive for the three European communities points up the continuing conflict over their internal political development.

Hallstein found Chancellor Kiesinger's recent agreement with De Gaulle to limit his tenure as president of the new executive to six months "both juridically and politically unacceptable." Hallstein noted that the treaty establishing the new executive for the EEC, EURATOM, and Coal-Steel Community provides a two-year term for the president and that the "independence of the institutions is threatened if member states can in this way set arbitrary limits on the term of a president."

The French have been trying to get rid of Hallstein since mid-1965, when, to protest his attempts to strengthen the EEC's institutions, De Gaulle resorted to an eight-month boycott of meetings of the three committees. Paris will regard his withdrawal as a victory, but his stand may lead to more public discussion of the issues involved. Foreign Minister Brandt was reported earlier to have been annoyed at the French attitude toward Hallstein.

It generally has been anticipated that the summit meeting of the Six in Rome at the end of this month will result in final agreement on the new executive. Hallstein will in any case remain president of the EEC until that agreement is in force.

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NOTES

Hong Kong: The Chinese Communists apparently are encouraging labor unrest in Hong Kong. In the latest in a series of Communist-inspired strikes, riot police on 6 May clashed with workers outside a plastics factory and arrested 21. Another strike has closed a cement plant--one of the ten largest industrial concerns in Hong Kong.

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